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NEWS
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Ford: 'I had a minor setback'

Of the recent Patois-infused, drunken video, T.O. mayor says 'I'm entitled to a personal life'

PAGE 12

Kyiv protests turn deadly

Two killed in clashes with police and protesters, Metro World News reports

PAGE 10

They're not staying quiet

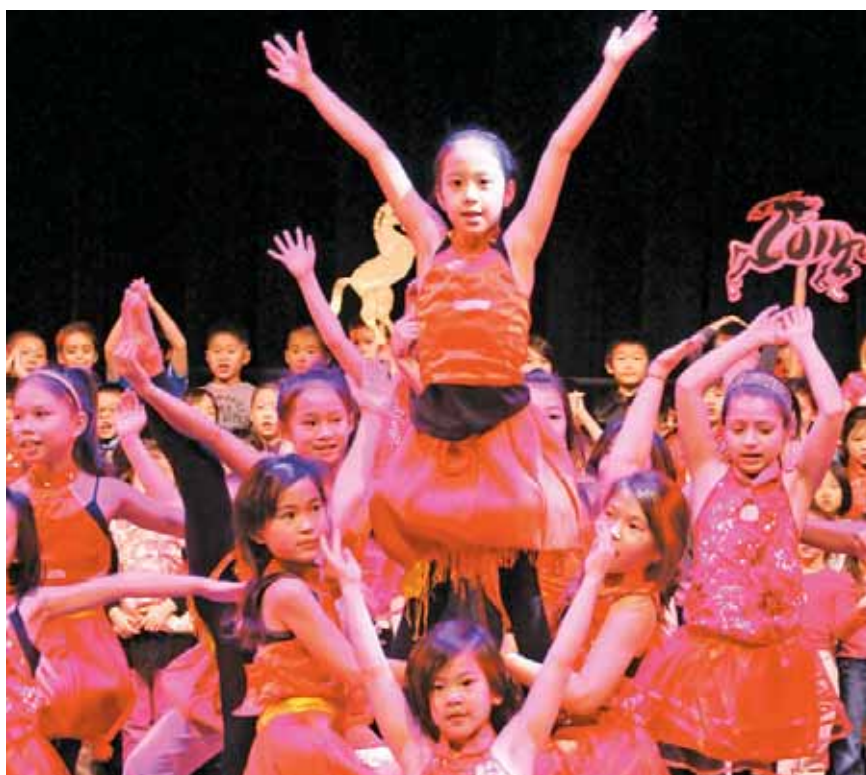
Pet owners plan to 'make some noise' at a rally after a dead dog and cat were found in a Calgary alley

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IT'S COLD OUT THERE — MAKE A RUN FOR IT!

HOW ABOUT A BRISK JOG IN BRISK TEMPERATURES? HERE'S HOW (AND WHY ON EARTH) TO DO IT

PAGE 15



YEAR OF THE HORSE

Highwood School students hold a special Chinese New Year performance Wednesday that included cultural songs, traditional dances and martial arts demonstrations. The show was hosted at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium this year to accommodate the massive demand for seats.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Cops lay charges in cancer-charity scam

'We got hooped.'
32-year-old Lana Rovang is accused of lying about a fatal heart condition and advanced cancer



BRYAN WEISMILLER
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Police alleged Wednesday a Calgary woman faked stage four breast cancer and swindled roughly \$20,000 from her peers.

Authorities have accused 32-year-old Lana Rovang of lying about a fatal heart condition and advanced cancer in order to garner donations from sympathizers.

As fraud charges were made public, Rovang's former day-care boss lamented feeling hoodwinked and said he hopes his fellow fundraisers understand the allegations.

"The parents know — we



Lana Rovang, 32. FACEBOOK

got hooped," said Marc St. Germain, who owns FunFlex Playcare in McKenzie Towne. "Our reputation is out there ... I mean, we shaved our heads ourselves — my wife and I."

St. Germain recalled meeting Rovang for the first time more than three years ago. He reportedly offered her two kids free care based on her medical claims and later ended up hiring her as a staff member.

It wasn't long before parents and colleagues rallied around

the purportedly ailing single-mother. Supporters cooked meals, shaved their heads and chipped in thousands of dollars worth of donations between December 2012 and June 2013.

Const. Patricia Ariss said someone eventually grew wary enough of Rovang's condition to report she was faking cancer.

Investigators focused on laying criminal charges and aren't aiming to recoup the financial losses right now, said Ariss, adding it's a "complex" situation.

"When allegations of fraudulent medical conditions are brought forward it's quite an intense investigation to obtain medical records," she told reporters.

Police did not confirm St. Germain's accusation that Rovang also posed as a flood-displaced Calgarian to get assistance from a British Columbian.

Rovang, 32, was arrested in Kelowna, B.C.

She now faces two counts of fraud over \$5,000, one count of fraud under \$5,000 and uttering a forged document.

Health information on 620,000 Albertans goes missing

Personal health information belonging to 620,000 Albertans and stored unencrypted on a private company's laptop was stolen last September, Health Minister Fred Horne revealed Wednesday.

"I am, quite frankly, out-

raged that this would not have been reported to myself or my department sooner," Horne said, adding he only learned of the Sept. 26, 2013 incident after receiving a letter from Medicentres Family Health Care Clinics on Tuesday.

Medicentres chief medical officer Dr. Arif Bhimji told Metro the laptop had been in the possession of an IT consultant the company had hired to develop applications.

Bhimji said "a sizeable portion" of its patient database

— including all visits to its 25 Alberta clinics between May 2, 2011 and Sept. 19, 2013 — was loaded onto the computer for testing, and the consultant lost track of the computer while travelling to meet other clients.

"We do not know exactly where the loss occurred and neither does he," Bhimji said. "At some point he recognized the laptop wasn't there; he traced his steps back but was unable to locate it."

The lost data includes pa-

tients' names, dates of birth, provincial health card numbers, billing codes, billing amounts and diagnostic codes.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 3

A full-page advertisement featuring David Beckham. He is shirtless, showcasing extensive tattoos on his arms, chest, and back. He is crouching on a dark, textured surface, possibly a runway or stage, with large, curved, metallic-looking structures in the background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his physique and the details of his tattoos. In the top right corner, the text "DAVID BECKHAM BODYWEAR™" is displayed in white. A black banner across the middle contains promotional text in white. The H&M logo is in the bottom right corner.

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H&M

Health care. Incredulity over data breach

A massive data breach revealed Wednesday raises all sorts of questions about Alberta's health-information system, says Wildrose leader Danielle Smith.

"Why is it that a single person at a private company can amass 620,000 pieces of information on individual patients, with all of this information in one place, unencrypted, and then have it stolen?" she said. "It's remarkable to me."

Calgary resident Jyoti Gondek had a similar reaction when she discovered she's among the affected patients, saying she was stunned as to how it could happen.

"I just finished doing a research project where there is such rigour around ethics and security and protecting information," she said. "My project was a teeny-weeny little project, so I can't believe that a giant organization like this would have a breach of a laptop. It boggles my mind."

Dr. Arif Bhimji of MedCentres, the company at the centre of the data breach, said it has since revised its policies to require all patient data be encrypted and all laptops be equipped with tracking devices.

Alberta Medical Association president Dr. Allan Garbutt said physicians are trained from early on to keep all medical information highly protected based on the principle that it belongs to the patient and no one else.

"There's a lot of ways the information could be used or misused, depending on the circumstance," he said. "It should be locked up and guarded."

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Mom wishes killers a life 'filled with regret'

Five charged in killing. Police say cellphone video used in investigation a 'new phenomena'



JEREMY NOLAIS
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Grieving mother Audrey Strasser says her boy was beaten to death behind a bar for defending the target of a racial slur.

Calgary police announced Wednesday they've charged a fifth man in the killing of 18-year-old Lukas Strasser-Hird. He was beaten and stabbed Nov. 23 in the 200 block of 10 Avenue SW after a previous confrontation inside a nearby nightclub. It was there that Audrey says her son came to the aid of a friend.

Lukas died in hospital surrounded by friends a few hours after the attack.

"The men that took his life deserve to live a life that is filled with regret for what they have taken, not only from us as his family, but the



Lukas Strasser-Hird is seen with his mother Audrey Strasser in this undated photo. COURTESY AUDREY STRASSER

Previously charged

Nathan Paul Gervais, 18, has previously been charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Lukas Strasser-Hird, while Franz Emir Cabrera, 19, Joch Pouk, 20, and Assmar Ryiad Shlah, 20, have been charged with second-degree murder.

life that Lukas deserved," she told Metro, speaking publicly for the first time. "He deserved to live a life filled with love, a family, to have the opportunity to become a father, to have travelled the world and to have enjoyed a future of his choosing."

On Wednesday, police announced 19-year-old Jordan Lee Liao faces a count of second-degree murder and is

due to appear in court Thursday.

Police homicide Staff Sgt. Grant Miller told reporters that police were provided with a "great deal" of video footage from Beltline businesses and cellphone footage recorded by witnesses.

Officers are still determining the validity of the handheld video, but Miller noted it's been a helpful investiga-

tive tool.

"That's a new phenomena that we as the police experience in most of our situations," he said. "Today's reality is everyone carries some form of a device that can capture audio or video."

Jordan Lee Liao, 19, faces a count of second-degree murder and is due to appear in court Thursday.

WITH FILES FROM BRYAN WEISMILLER

1 NEWS



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Animal lovers prepare to 'make some noise' in wake of killings

Starved to death.
Humane society hasn't 'zeroed in on a suspect'



JEREMY NOLAÏS
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If Shalane Pryce has things her way, 2,000 people — and their pets — will turn up at Calgary's Nose Hill Park this Saturday afternoon.

She then plans to dress some of them in red shirts and provide them with letter signs that, when put together, will declare the message: "Canada, change our animal laws. Calgary is the voice."

Reward

\$67K

At press time, a reward established for information leading to a conviction in the killing of two Calgary animals had nearly reached \$67,000.

The effort, formally known as the Willow Park Paws Justice Memorial and spurred by Pryce and fellow animal lover Mandi Cooper, is just the latest launched in the wake of the startling discoveries of the bodies of two animals found in a southeast alley with tape over their mouths.

A husky was found first Jan. 9 and then a kitten less than a year old was discovered just 10 metres away a week later.

Pryce started her Facebook page, "Southern Alberta Pet Connection," after historic-level floodwaters washed through Calgary and southern Alberta last June, in hopes of reuniting victims with their furry friends. The nature of her work means she's no stranger to stories of animal suffering, but even she struggles to describe the suffering both the husky and kitten went through.

"I couldn't even be at my computer ... that image," she said, referring to a photo of the starved husky provided by the Calgary Humane Society, which is leading the investigation to

determine who's responsible for the deaths.

After word of the alley discoveries surfaced, Pryce was approached by Cooper about the potential of hosting the memorial.

As of Wednesday evening, about 300 people had confirmed on Facebook their intentions to attend the event, which gets underway at 2 p.m. Cooper said she's received support online for the cause from as far away as Chicago.

But while humane society officials have commended the monetary support people have offered to their investigation, they also admit it can be a double-edged sword.

"There are people who would turn in their own mother for that kind of money, so I can certainly see that financial amount would speak to some people," said Brad Nichols, cruelty investigations manager. "But ... you have to look at the credibility of the information you're getting when you're putting up that kind of money."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nose Hill Park was pretty quiet Wednesday night, but Shalane Pryce, left, and Mandi Cooper hope it's filled with animal advocates and their beloved pets come Saturday, during a memorial in honour of two animals found dead in a Calgary alley. JEREMY NOLAÏS/METRO

High-stakes investment

RCMP charge two men in \$23M fraud case

Two Alberta men accused of bilking 1,314 Canadian investors out of more than \$23 million have been charged with fraud and theft.

RCMP allege the men behind a Calgary company called Concrete Equities Inc. promised investors huge returns if they purchased a stake in undeveloped beach property in Mexico called the Golfo de Santa Clara project.

The investors included people from Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

"People invested as a limited partner to these investments and they were all putting in between \$10,000 and \$100,000. And these investments were RSP eligible," RCMP Sgt. Conal Archer said Wednesday.

"They put their money in and were hoping they were going to get upwards of 500 per cent returns — what these fellows were telling them."

The RCMP's financial integrity unit alleges the men diverted money to other businesses and stole investors' money from 2007 until Concrete Equities crumbled into receivership in 2009.

Dave Humeniuk of St. Albert faces charges of fraud over \$5,000, theft over \$5,000 and money laundering, and is to appear in court Feb. 27.

A Canada-wide arrest warrant has been issued for Varun Aurora, of Calgary, who faces fraud and theft charges. Police believe he may be out of the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Creative competition: ACAD students vie for say in 'main mall' redesign



Photography student Brandynn Pope is seen in the "main mall" area of the Alberta College of Art and Design. JEREMY NOLAÏS/METRO

Some suggest it really does look like a shopping centre, others view it more as blank canvas for their work.

But some students from the Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) offer less flattering descriptions of the institution's "main mall" area.

"At times it sort of feels like a prison," said third-year photography student Brandynn Pope. "It's mostly the cement — a little more colour would help."

It appears the college's

top brass agree, as they have launched a major overhaul project to "re-imagine" the space, which amounts to a busy hallway running the width of the institution's third floor and features plenty of amenities, services and space for students to display their work. A quick tour through the area revealed multiple students and staff setting up installations and hanging paintings from walls.

"It really gives us a place to go to and gather," explained Lori Van Rooijen, ACAD's vice-

Proposal process

A proposal for the redesign of the ACAD's "main mall" goes to the board of governors May 21. After that, the college will embark on a fundraising initiative.

president of engagement.

Students like Pope will be given plenty of say in the redesign, Van Rooijen said, as a competition has been launched

encouraging peers from differing programs to pair up and develop a plan for how to better use the display and gathering spaces. The teams are also asked to answer questions like what types of things should be taught in the mall and whether food services should be added to the strip.

Design teams have until Thursday to submit their competition pitch, and then all offerings will be displayed in the mall from Jan. 27-30.

JEREMY NOLAÏS/METRO

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06

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Thursday, January 23, 2014



From left, campaign co-chair Rick Hanson, United Way CEO Lucy Miller and campaign co-chair Dawn Farrell reveal the 2013 fundraising results. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Record total for United Way

2013 fundraising.
'You focus on kids, you focus on poverty, you focus on community,' police chief says

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Despite fears of donor fatigue in the wake of last year's flooding, the United Way of Calgary and District raised \$55.7 million in its 2013 campaign, an all-time record.

"In September when we launched, people asked us,

'Will you be able to do this? Calgarys have already given so much.'" United Way CEO Lucy Miller said at a superhero-themed ceremony Wednesday morning to unveil the total donation figure. "This morning we have an answer for you, and it's good news."

Not only did the campaign raise \$500,000 more than the previous record, set in 2012, but on top of the \$55.7-million total, the United Way also received another \$1 million toward its emergency flood fund and \$4 million toward its "All In for Youth" initiative to reduce high-school dropouts.

"In a year when so much was lost, so many have given," Miller said.

Police Chief Rick Hanson, a campaign co-chair, said some of the funds raised in 2013 will help prevent crime in years to come by supporting children living in poverty and keeping them in school and away from negative influences.

"Those gangbangers we put in jail that have been charged with multiple murders and lived a life of crime — all of them started as little kids, and not one of them said, 'When I grow up, I want to be a murderer,'" Hanson said.

In total, the United Way supports more than 100 local agencies and 200 programs to address the root causes of social problems.

Crime

Police warn of Elbow Park break-ins

Police are warning residents to lock their doors and windows after four break-and-enters in the southwest community of Elbow Park this month.

The offences all occurred from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays as well as from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturdays.

Anyone with any information is asked to call police at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers.

METRO

Teen health. Study to examine exercise as depression treatment

Researchers at the Alberta Children's Hospital and University of Calgary want to know if exercise can help depressed teens.

In conjunction with the YMCA Calgary, a team led by Dr. Frank MacMaster, chair of pediatric mental health at the ACH, will examine the effect of intensive aerobic activity on the hippocampus, an area of the brain that regulates a person's response to stress.

The pilot study, which is the first of its kind in Canada, will

have 30 participants aged 16 to 18 and they will have a specially structured exercise program.

"Depression is a major public-health problem which often begins in adolescence," said MacMaster.

Studies in animals have shown that exercise strengthens the hippocampus by re-growing and strengthening neuronal connection. The study will determine if there are similar effects on young people.

METRO

City seeing fewer handicap parking violators

Compliance boost.
Issue was raised in 2012 after spike in fines



JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nola@metronews.ca

Able-bodied Calgary motorists appear to be getting the message as the city's parking authority says it's finding fewer people parking their rides illegally in handicap stalls.

Overall, the total number of violators tagged by the Calgary Parking Authority fell 11 per cent in 2013 when compared with the year prior.

But general manager Troy McLeod was quick to point out the decline was greater than 30 per cent in November and December as his organization ran its latest awareness campaign, encouraging motorists without a wheelchair pass hanging from their mirror to steer clear of the designated stalls.

"It's a positive sign that we're seeing it trending back," he said, adding, "We would prefer compliance over issuing a tag every time."

McLeod said the authority



Vehicles were found inappropriately parked in Calgary handicap stalls less often in 2013, according to data provided by the city's parking authority. METRO FILE

is also experimenting with a new handicap-stall sign that makes it more visible for motorists.

Overall, 6,289 vehicles were caught inappropriately parked in a handicap stall, down from 7,075 in 2012.

11-year prison sentence

Man who held hostages at WCB offices has appeal dismissed

A man who held a group of people hostage at gunpoint in an Edmonton Workers' Compensation Board building has lost his appeal.

Patrick Clayton had asked the Alberta Court of Appeal to rescind his guilty pleas or, failing that, reduce his 11-year prison sentence.

Clayton, who was armed with a hunting rifle and 100 rounds of ammunition, herded nine people into a conference room in the downtown building in 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Complaints over snow, ice. City will mull millions for walkway clearing

They're not quite sidewalks, they're not quite pathways, but city council will consider spending millions of dollars to clear "engineered walkways" of ice and snow.

The city's transportation and transit committee voted Wednesday to add the item to budget deliberations in November, after numerous complaints to 311 and councillors' offices over the lack of snow-and-ice control on these pedestrian routes.

There are just over 2,000 such walkways in the city, spanning 78.2 kilometres. They connect neighbourhoods, transit stations, schools and shopping centres, but are only cleared of snow

on a request basis and with a low priority.

Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart, who raised the issue at council, would like to see the city take responsibility for keeping these walkways clear of snow and ice.

Others, like Coun. Peter Demong, think the responsibility should lie with adjacent residents or property owners, in the same way sidewalks are treated under city bylaws.

"I don't see these walkways as being anything different than sidewalks and we need to have citizens take a little more responsibility for their own neighbourhoods and their own communities," Demong said. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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The federal Liberal Party leader was in Calgary Wednesday for a private fundraising event and later travelled to Okotoks for a meet-and-greet, ahead of a looming byelection call in the federal riding of Macleod, just south of the city. Metro's Robson Fletcher caught up with him to ask a few questions



METRO FILE

1 What would a Trudeau government do to support transit infrastructure?

"There's a lot of politicking around perception and short-term advantage but not necessarily a larger plan of what's actually going to serve, not just in the short-term in terms of construction jobs, but in the long-term in terms of what a growing city is going to need. So, very much an approach that looks at facts, data, best practices, and a real vision for the next decades rather than just the next electoral cycle."



ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

5 Questions for Justin Trudeau



THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Can you clarify where you stand on pipeline policy?

"We are a natural resource economy and we need to be able to (get our resources to market). However, we need to do that in the right way... So, I'm very much a proponent of Keystone XL. For similar reasons, I'm not a proponent of (Enbridge's) Northern Gateway Pipeline ... which has spectacularly failed at getting community buy-in.... I am, however, very interested in the Kinder Morgan pipeline, the Trans Mountain pipeline ... and I hope that Kinder Morgan learns from Enbridge's experience of short-cutting or going too light on community buy-in. Ultimately governments grant permits, but only communities grant permission."



METRO FILE

How would you help cities like Calgary when it comes to affordable housing?

"Funding is obviously going to be a big piece of it, but help in planning, help in building, help in creating incentives — tax incentives — for developers to make sure there is enough low-income housing and enough rental spaces. There are a lot of mechanisms the federal government does have and it's not just throwing money at the problem."

What do you make of the current landscape when it comes to marijuana?

"For me, the status quo is unacceptable. Right now, young people have easy access to pot — easier access than to alcohol — and in Canada we have higher levels of marijuana usage than any of 29 different developed countries around the world. Canada is failing to protect our kids from the negative effects of marijuana, and therefore we need to regulate and control it. And, on top of that, with the current model, not only are we not protecting our kids, we are funding criminal organizations."



THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Where in Conservative-dominated Calgary do you think the Liberals have the best shot in the next election?

"People are feeling very much taken for granted, and we saw that in the byelection here in Calgary Centre where we had an extremely, extremely good campaign that came very, very close.... I know that in Calgary, the new configuration of ridings means that there's a good handful in which we're going to be highly competitive, and because of that we've got some great candidates stepping forward."



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Protests in Ukraine turn deadly

Kyiv. Political crisis intensifies as violent clashes between police and protesters result in fatalities

Unrest in Kyiv turned for the worse on Wednesday with news that two people died from gunshot wounds during clashes between police and protesters, the first fatalities since demonstrations over the government's rejection of a planned EU treaty began in November.

The day saw state police units dismantle a makeshift barricade on Europe Square and Hrushevskoho Street — the city's new hotspot for clashes, which runs along the cabinet office and parliament buildings. Protesters, who fashioned makeshift armour out of sleeping mats and pieces of wood strapped to their jackets, parried police grenades with Molotov cocktails.

"If we leave now, we will all



Protesters hurl gas bombs at riot police Wednesday. ANDREY SVITAILO/METRO WORLD NEWS

land up in jail. We will take a stand," Bogdan, a young man guarding a barricade, told Metro. To maintain their position, the protesters ignited huge bonfires, the smoke from which, they claim, neutralizes the pepper gas launched by

the police.

When news circulated earlier in the day of the first casualties in the civil unrest, the crowds in this area swelled to an estimated 2,000 by mid-morning. "Burn for our boys!" a voice was heard from the

crowd as a gas bomb landed on top of a phalanx of riot police. Some of the bombs lobbed were five-litre pickle jars.

At one moment, an Orthodox priest walked out into the neutral zone between the protesters and police, pleading for

Caught in the clash

Metro photographer injured by grenade

A Metro journalist was injured Wednesday in a stun grenade explosion on Kyiv's Europe Square amid clashes between anti-government protesters and police.

Andrey Svitailo, a staff photographer for the Metro Moscow newspaper, sustained leg injuries caused by shrapnel exploding from a stun grenade thrown by Berkut riot police at protesters.

"It was very sore and pain-



Photographer Andrey Svitailo; the shrapnel he was hit with. MWN

ful," Svitailo describes the moment after three pieces of shrapnel struck his calf and thigh. "My jeans ripped open and I was left with some bloody bruises. I literally had to take the shards of grenade out of my clothes.

"But thanks to my long johns, the fragments did not pierce my skin." Svitailo did not require hospitalization and is continuing to cover the protests. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

dan Square.

Hrushevskoho Street was emptied after 10 minutes. While the air cleared at Kyiv's freshest battleground, thick black smoke still shrouded city squares elsewhere.

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A barely visible sculpted rabbit is tucked inside one of the bronze ears of a nine-metre-tall statue of Nelson Mandela outside the government complex in Pretoria, unveiled a day after South African leader's funeral last month. Officials want the miniature bunny removed. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Officials want to pull rabbit out of Mandela statue's ear

Hopping mad.

Sculptors apologize to those who felt it was disrespectful, arts and culture minister says

A new, nine-metre sculpture of Nelson Mandela has a tiny, barely visible quirk: a sculpted rabbit tucked inside one of the bronze ears.

South African officials want the miniature bunny removed from the statue, which was unveiled outside the government complex in Pretoria on Dec. 16, a day after Mandela's funeral. The department of arts and culture said it didn't know the two sculptors, Andre Prinsloo and Ruhan Janse van Vuuren, had added a rabbit, said to be a discreet signature on their work.

Dali Tambo, the CEO of Kokoetso Growth that was ap-

Hasty decision?

The artists said they added the rabbit as a "trademark" after they were not allowed to engrave their signatures on the statue's trousers.

- They said the rabbit represented the pressure of finishing the sculpture on time because "haas" — the word for rabbit in the Dutch-based Afrikaans language — also means "haste."

pointed to manage the statue project, said the artists, who belong to South Africa's white Afrikaner minority, were selected in part because the project was a multi-racial effort in keeping with Mandela's principle of reconciliation. He said their signatures could be added in a discreet place, perhaps on Mandela's heel. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ceres

Scientists spy water on dwarf planet

Scientists have confirmed signs of water on the dwarf planet Ceres, one of the few bodies in the solar system to hold that distinction.

Peering through the Herschel Space Observatory, a team led by the European Space Agency detected water plumes spewing from two regions on Ceres,

the largest object in the asteroid belt. The observations, in Thursday's issue of *Nature*, come as NASA's Dawn spacecraft is set to arrive at the Texas-sized dwarf planet next year.

The source of the water plumes is still unclear. Scientists think there may be a layer of ice just below the surface that gets heated by the sun or the plumes could be spewed by ice volcanoes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michigan airport

Influx of owls poses threat to aircraft

Traps are being used to catch snowy owls alive at Michigan's Gerald R. Ford International Airport after staff members shot nine in the last two months to ensure aircraft safety.

Snowy owls are out in force in parts of the Midwest this winter, thanks to a population boom

in their Arctic breeding lands. Birdwatchers have reported spotting them more frequently than usual in several places around Michigan.

An airport spokeswoman said the influx of snowy owls into the area is unprecedented and airport staff cannot compromise flight safety. The owls are known to fly low and could collide with an aircraft.

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Ford: Latest embarrassing video just one of life's 'difficult bumps'

Nothing personal.

Toronto mayor happy to talk about city's budget, but won't take questions about Jamaican-infused Steak Queen rant

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is calling his alcohol-fuelled, profane rant in a Jamaican accent at a restaurant — caught on video — a “minor setback,” and says he is entitled to a personal life.

Ford offered no apologies a day after the clip, which shows him using Jamaican swear words and other profanities, at one point aiming his curses at Toronto's police chief, was posted anonymously to YouTube.

“Monday was unfortunate,” he said at a late-afternoon news conference. “I had a minor setback. We all experience



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford charges through a media scrum at city hall in Toronto on Wednesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

these difficult bumps in life.”

But, he said, it is a “completely private matter.”

“As you know, I'm a human

being, the same as every one of you, and I'm entitled to a personal life,” Ford said. “My personal life does not interfere

with work I do day in and day out for the taxpayers of this great city.”

Ford refused to answer

reporters' questions throughout the day about whether he drove himself to or from the restaurant that night, if he

'A minor setback'

“As you know, I'm a human being, the same as every one of you, and I'm entitled to a personal life.”

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford

was using drugs and if he was hanging out with his friend Alexander Lisi.

A second video also posted to YouTube, purportedly from the same night, appears to show Ford sitting with Lisi.

Ford's admission that he had been drinking ended weeks of adamant vows that he had given up alcohol.

Ford spent much of his news conference discussing the city's budget and finished by saying he would be “happy to take questions on the budget only.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Israel gives PM Harper a very special tweet

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen take a tour of the future site of the Stephen J. Harper Hula Valley Bird Sanctuary Visitor and Education Centre in Hula Valley, Israel, on Wednesday. While in the Middle East, Harper is visiting Israel, the West Bank and Jordan. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CBC

Kenyan author comes out against homophobia in Africa

Online declaration.
Reactions to the writer's coming out were mostly negative

One of Africa's leading literary figures Binyavanga Wainaina says he's known he was gay since he was five-years-old, though he did not have a homosexual encounter until he was 39.

To celebrate his 43rd birthday, the prize-winning Kenyan has published an online essay telling the world that he is gay. His story contributes to an increasingly fierce debate about gays in Africa and is a protest against laws that seek to further criminalize homosexuality.

Wainaina's essay, painful to read, this week announced what he wishes he had told his mother before she died 14 years ago: "I am a homosexual,

mum."

In an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, he said he came out to help preserve his dignity.

"All people have dignity. There's nobody who was born without a soul and a spirit," he said. "There is nobody who is a beast or an animal, right?"

"Every one, we, we homosexuals, are people and we need our oxygen to breathe."

Wainaina, whose hair is dyed in rainbow colours, lashed out at recently passed laws against homosexuality in Nigeria and Uganda. He also criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin, who faces criticism over Russia's law banning "gay propaganda" aimed at youth.

"I can't sleep at night because there are people who I may know or who I don't even know ... who may be dying or being beaten or being tortured right now in a Nigerian cell or three weeks ago in a Ugandan one," he said.



Prize-winning Kenyan author Binyavanga Wainaina talks during a television interview in Nairobi, Kenya, Wednesday. He publicly declared his homosexuality in an online essay last weekend. BEN CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dennis Nzioka, a gay rights activist in Kenya, welcomed Wainaina's public announcement and said his prominence may influence other gay people

in Africa and Kenya to come out publicly. He said Wainaina's announcement was both inspirational and courageous.

"Courageous, because to

do this in the Kenyan society knowing very well what he can face; ostracization and rejection," Nzioka said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the front lines

Clashes over gay laws continue

Thousands of protesters threw stones into the Shariah court in a north Nigerian city Wednesday, urging the speedy convictions and executions of 11 men arrested for belonging to gay organizations.

Security officials fired into the air to disperse protesters in Bauchi city so the accused men could be safely returned to the prison.

Meanwhile, in Uganda, a court on Wednesday ordered the deportation of Bernard Russell, a British man facing criminal charges related to images of him having sex with another man.



Bernard Russell THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Get ready for cool runnings

Running in a winter wonderland. First step is the worst, says expert with ice in her veins



JACOB MORGAN
Metro in Saskatoon

With Canada having experienced a brutal cold snap from coast to coast at the outset of 2014, the rest of the country can learn a thing or two from the folks in the Prairies.

Lisette Schermann is the manager of the Brainsport store, a staple of Saskatoon's Broadway Avenue. She says that when the temperatures dip far below zero, there is no reason to sit inside and sulk.

Instead, try going for a brisk run on the tundra.

"The hardest part is getting out there," she said. "Once you're outside it's not nearly as bad as you think."

There are many common misconceptions when it comes to winter running, said Schermann. For instance, newbies tend to assume they're going to feel as cold as they do when walking from the front door to the car.

"People definitely overdress," she said. "They're judging it on experiences of

Truth or dare

Truth: In order to gain traction on the ice, you need shoes designed with proper grip and insulation.

- **Dare:** Try the DIY approach with screws in the soles and duct tape on the tips for extra heat.

Truth: When you first get started with winter running, your average pace could slow down by about 10 per cent.

- **Dare:** By the end of the season, try to beat the speed you have in the summer.

Truth: One of the best parts of winter running is getting outside to explore nature.

- **Dare:** Find the very best trails in your city and run them all before the last of the snow melts away.

walking or driving in the cold where you're not producing as much body heat."

However, she said that doesn't mean would-be winter runners don't need to "step up their game, gear-wise."

Some must-have items: sneakers with cleats for traction on the ice, reflective materials for visibility during those long winter nights and a balaclava to protect your face from the windchill.

Once that's done, it's time to hit the snow.

But make sure not to start off with heavy speed work, as Schermann said the frigid

weather can extend average paces by 10 per cent.

"You only really have to be aware of that the first few runs and then you get your snow legs," she said.

And when the season is done, Schermann said many runners are ahead of the game.

Even if you're not looking for a challenge, Schermann said a nice jog can be a great cure for the winter blues.

"There aren't that many opportunities to get outside in the winter time, and running is a really easy one."

Metro asked: What's your winter running pet peeve?



"Just the ice is sometimes trouble for me. ... They

make grips for your shoes or people screw actual screws into their shoes."

Jillian Joan, 23, Brooks Running Company employee, Alberta



"Definitely the windchill. It's probably the

worst thing. Everything else seems pretty good though."

Kristen Christensen, 30s, rec programmer, Saskatoon



"When winter runners unexpectedly run

across an intersection ... as a driver on icy roads I don't have enough time to necessarily stop."

Dave Cazakoff, 28, student, Saskatoon



"When I don't have the right wind-breaking

material and my legs get really cold. The front of my thighs burn from being so cold."

Crystal Clarke, 34, librarian, Saskatoon



"I run around near the residential areas and

sometimes people don't shovel their walks so you'll be running into deep snow."

Benjamin Lam, 27, engineer, Saskatoon



"When people don't get out of your way,

even when you call out. ... Running through a snow drift is not a whole lot of fun."

Becky Mang, 33, engineer, Regina

Must-have gear

Hat

SUGOI Snowflake Tuque. Doesn't have to be too thick, as long as it covers the ears.

Balaclava

Saucony DryLete Balaclava. Features mesh over the mouth for breathability.

Gloves

SUGOI Wind Mitt. Warmer than gloves. For an extra layer, try wearing gloves underneath the mitts.

Base layer

Helly Hansen Warm. Merino wool to stay fresher smelling.

Mid layer

SUGOI Women's Speedster 3 Performance Hoodie. Features a ponytail hole in the hood.

Outer layer

SUGOI Jackie Thermal Jacket. Windproof panels over the sleeves and a fleecy breathable back. Lots of pockets.

Pants

Salomon Nova Softshell pant. Warmest pant at Brainsport.

Ankle

SUGOI Resistor Run Gaiter. Keeps snow out of shoes.

Sneaker

Saucony Ride running shoe. (Note: this model is using regular grip so as not to damage the grip on the winter shoes during a test run.)

JACOB MORGAN/
METRO IN SASKATOON



4th graders now. Just a sec, mom, I'm texting Emily our recess plans

A survey of more than 5,400 Canadian kids in grades 4 through 11 found that a majority had their own cell-phone, while nearly one in four of the youngest children owned a mobile device.

MediaSmarts did the wide-ranging survey and the director of education for the non-profit said it was eye-opening for him to learn that about a quarter of nine and 10-year-old students had their own device. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Actress Quvenzhané Wallis last year, at the age of nine. GETTY IMAGES

Report. You're not dumb to worry your 'smart' fridge might spy on you

Don't look now, but your new fridge may be spying on you.

Proofpoint, Inc., a corporation specializing in corporate security, reported this month that cybercriminals have targeted Internet-connected home

devices.

Proofpoint's study reported that more than 750,000 malicious email messages were sent out from more than 100,000 household gadgets, including a fridge. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Keystone XL pipeline's southern leg starts flowing

Like oil and water.

CEO says Oklahoma-to-Texas stretch is a 'win-win-win,' but activists worry those who live along route will lose

Canadian oilsands producers have a direct pipeline link between Alberta and the U.S. Gulf Coast with the official start-up Wednesday of the Keystone XL pipeline's southern leg.

The project's opposition, meanwhile, vowed to watch the new pipeline "like a hawk" as it continues to urge President Barack Obama to reject the larger, more contentious northern leg of the system.

TransCanada Corp. is building the line and its CEO Russ Girling described the \$2.3-billion US project as a "win-win-

Criticism gushed up

Jane Kleeb, with the anti-pipeline advocacy group Bold Nebraska, said that Wednesday marked a "very sad day" for those worried about their land in Texas and Oklahoma. "We all know this pipeline is a huge risk to folks along the route ... Citizens are watching this pipeline like a hawk. They know that they are bracing for the worst today as this pipeline starts up."

win" for U.S. Gulf refiners, who'll get access to a cheaper, more secure source of crude; for North American crude producers, who'll get a better price for their landlocked oil, and for consumers, who may pay a cheaper price at the pump as expensive foreign imports are supplanted. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Another jewel for the crown?

The 29.6-carat blue diamond recovered by Petra Diamonds from a mine near Pretoria, South Africa, is seen in this Jan. 18 photo. Petra said in a statement that the diamond — found in the Cullinan mine, which has yielded, among other famous stones, the 530-carat Star of Africa blue diamond that is part of the British crown jewels — is a vivid blue with extraordinary tone and clarity, and could yield a polished stone of great value.

PHILIP MOSTERT/PETRA DIAMONDS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Warns of low inflation

Bank of Canada keeps interest rate steady at 1%

The Bank of Canada is lowering its forecast for inflation but keeping its key interest rate unchanged at one per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some sanctions lifted

EU businesses to rush back into Iran

Europe's business community is abuzz with preparations to rush back into Iran, an economic powerhouse in the Middle East, as some sanctions are suspended.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PITFALLS OF AN ENTERTRAINER

I've had such a negative perception of gyms that as I was writing this column about my new gym membership I suddenly remembered that I'd already had a gym membership, about 10 years ago, and had banished it from my memory like Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace, a movie that doesn't exist.

The memory is foggy but my brief time there (it was a YMCA) reminded me of high school, complete with stale-smelling change rooms, annoying cliques and crippling self-doubt heavier than any weight. Well, not any weight. Not those little pink ones. I have a little self-respect.

Lacking the requisite cardiovascular strength (i.e. I didn't have the heart), I didn't set a sneakered foot inside a gym until a decade later when, fresh out of comedy school, I took a gig at a fitness chain where my job was to entertain people while they did ab exercises. I was keen on



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

my first post-school assignment, which is why I was blind to the fact that this is the worst idea in the history of entertainment — akin to entertaining air traffic controllers with a game of bingo.

At best, the exercisers tolerated me. At worst, they yelled at me to stop, which is part of the job, except you're not supposed to think, "That heckler is right!"

This did not improve my feeling toward the gym industry. I shunned them, preferring to exercise outside in the winter even if that meant temperatures so cold I risked ending up like Jack Nicholson at the end of *The Shining*.

But that all changed recently. I discovered a little gym in my neighbourhood that's just perfect for me. It's small so it doesn't attract many preeners, and it's open 24 hours so I can fiddle with the machinery alone. I may yet end up the first person ever killed by an elliptical, but at least my

low-impact death will only be a CCTV YouTube sensation, not an in-person humiliation.

I've been hitting the gym for about three weeks now, and it gets easier every time as I pick up a few tricks about how to carry and motivate myself:

- It helps to put the Edmonton Oilers on TV during your workout. That way you see yourself working harder than an entire team of professional athletes.
- Wearing a towel over your shoulders and carrying a water bottle shows your fellow exercisers that you are the real deal, just like the people in the ads.
- Fake punching the air looks pretty cool.
- Most importantly, I've learned that gym-goers are a family. If I see an overweight person, I show support with a hearty "Hang in there! It gets better!" If I see an attractive person, I say "Yeeeahhh."

I fully recommend that you follow these tips. Sure, conversations might go a little awry with certain members, but that just reminds me of another important gym fact I learned in high school: Running away is excellent exercise.

ZOOM

AK-47s' cruel and cool culture



COURTESY RALPH ZIMAN

Project highlights duality of AK-47s

A filmmaker has shone light on Africa's controversial use of the AK-47, by photographing vibrant replicas of the assault rifle.

Ralph Ziman, from Johannesburg, took images of Zimbabwean street vendors brandishing copies of the infamous weapon that were made using traditional Shona-style beadwork. **METRO**

Q and A

'Beautiful yet venomous snake'



RALPH ZIMAN
South Africa-born filmmaker, based in Los Angeles

What inspired you to address gun culture?

The story behind this project — entitled *Ghosts* — began a year ago when I was back in

my hometown of Johannesburg. I was reminded of the rate of gun violence connected to the AK-47 rifle that has gripped the entire continent of Africa and intrigued by the terror that firearms hold in African culture.

The AK-47 has killed millions, but at the same time has been pivotal in the struggle for independence

— the gun appears on the Mozambique flag. Did you have the duality of the weapon in mind?

Without a doubt. These vibrantly-coloured guns in my images highlight the alluring nature of the rifle. It's like a beautiful yet venomous snake. In South Africa, this weapon was once an instrument against the apartheid regime.

Clickbait



HANNAH ZITNER

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A picture says a thousand words, or so the saying goes, and apps like Snapchat and Instagram seem to be proving the saying true. But just because you've got that beach pic of your toes in the sand, doesn't mean no one wants to read the rest of your vacation story (actually, if they're suffering through this polar vortex, they might not want to). Inspired by newspapers' forays into long-form visual story-telling, we've compiled apps that let you do just the same.

Storehouse:

User-friendly with a simple design, Storehouse lets you import photos and videos from your computer, Dropbox, Flickr or Instagram to add seamlessly to your narrative.

Prss:

Create your own online magazine using your own videos, photos with an

easy-to-use template — so you don't have to be an InDesign wizard to get your work looking sharp.

Storybird:

Billed as more of an educational tool, this app lets you create a storybook based on other people's illustrations and animations. It's geared toward kids 13+, but really, can't we all benefit from a little creative non-fiction?



ISTOCKIMAGES

Comments

RE: Watching The NHL Has Become The Same As Witnessing A Bar Brawl, says Paul Sullivan, published Jan. 22

If you don't like fighting in hockey there are plenty of other things to watch on TV!! If anything the NHL is getting a little wimpy these days. The true fans like the state of the game and the constant whining that the game

is too violent is annoying and will change nothing. **mbacks posted to metronews.ca**

Is there any surprise that Canadian athletics is considered a joke worldwide? Why hockey fans continuously equate toughness with fighting is beyond me. There are tougher athletes competing in rugby and Aussie Rules footie that put these guys to shame. **aferdinanda posted to metronews.ca**

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2
SCENE

Cabaret to cast spotlight on Calgary's colourful gay history

Club Carousel. Expect both entertainment and education at the High Performance Rodeo



BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

Small, low ceilings, no windows and gaudy circus colour themes — Club Carousel wasn't pretty, but it was a vitally important space for hundreds of gay Calgarians in the late 1960s.

Opened in 1968, a year before homosexuality was decriminalized in Canada, Club Carousel was the city's first gay bar.

"It was the dawn of the gay liberation movement in Calgary," explains Kevin Allen, who has spent two years researching gay history in the city, including the nightclub. "It was the first place that was gay-owned and where gay people could feel safe."

It's a part of local history that most people are unaware of, but will get a chance to discover this month at the High Performance Rodeo.

Allen and Third Street Theatre have collaborated on Club Carousel, a cabaret-style event taking place Jan. 30 at the Big Secret Theatre in the Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts.

The pairing was encouraged by HPR curator Michael Green, who saw one of Allen's standing-room-only gay history presentations in 2012.

"He came up to me and said, 'This is so great. I won-



Historian Kevin Allen, left, and Third Street Theatre co-artistic producer Jonathan Brower stand outside the former location of Calgary's first gay bar, Club Carousel on First Street S.W. LISA WILTON

der if we could incorporate this into the High Performance Rodeo somehow?" recalls Allen.

"I bumped into him a few months later and he told me there was a new queer theatre in town and perhaps we should get together and we can make something hap-

pen."

Digging up info on Calgary's first gay-owned drinking establishment wasn't easy. Allen first contacted LG-BTQ seniors groups and then went 'age-profiling' at Pride parades, asking anyone with grey hair if they remembered the club.

With help from a few volunteers, he managed to track down several people who frequented the bar, as well as the original owners.

He also visited the site of the original Club Carousel on 1st Street, near 12th Avenue S.W. The former basement bar is now a storage space for the Italian food market above it.

"It had a circus-tent theme," says Allen. "There were carousel horses on the wall. Another wall was all metallic. I think they used tinfoil so it would reflect more light. They would get 300 people down there for a great shaker."

Allen says he's surprised at the level of interest in his research of the origins of the local LGBTQ community.

"I tapped into something in the zeitgeist," he says. "People are really interested in gay history right now. It might be something to do with what's happening in Russia, Uganda and Iran and the lack of gay rights in those countries."

Backstory

- Since homosexuality was still illegal in Canada in 1968, police shut down Club Carousel the first night it opened.

- The bar thwarted other attempted closures by becoming a private members' club.

Details

- Tickets for The Club Carousel Cabaret can be purchased in person at the Epcor Centre box office or by calling 403-294-9494.

- For more information on the High Performance Rodeo, go to hprodeo.ca.

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Paging David Cameron: Make more Sherlock!

Lobby of love. Chinese fans appealed to British PM to ask creators of show for more episodes

The makers of TV's Sherlock say even a lobbying effort by British Prime Minister David Cameron wouldn't persuade them to produce more episodes each season.

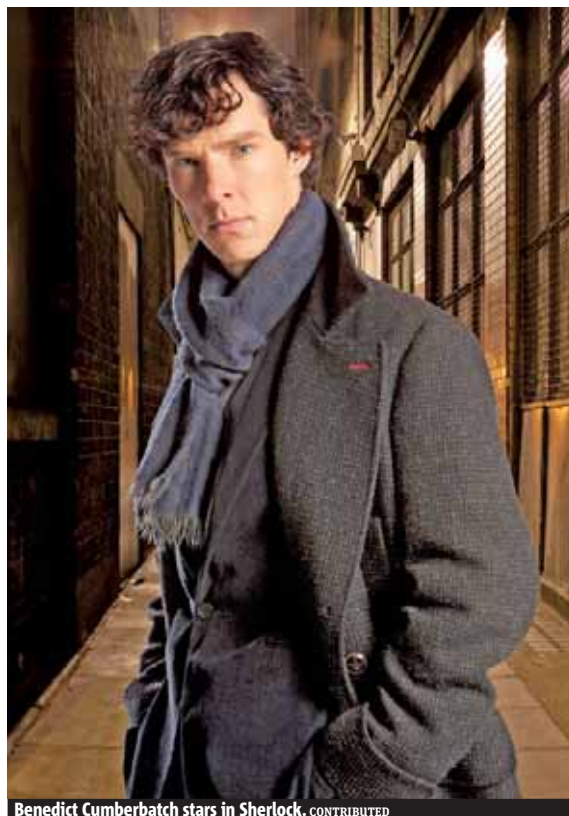
But Sherlock co-creator Steven Moffat and producer Sue Vertue tweaked Cameron anyway for lack of effort. It's been more than a month, they noted, since he visited China and was asked by fans there to press for more of the popular mystery series.

He praised the drama and told Chinese viewers who submitted the request to him online that he would try. But Cameron has yet to contact them, Vertue said this week.

A droll Moffat added: "David Cameron, calling you on that, mate. ... All of China, they're waiting."

The British-produced modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective has been a worldwide hit. It made its third season U.S. debut last Sunday on PBS, with husband-and-wife team Moffat and Vertue and star Benedict Cumberbatch on hand to promote it.

Fans have to make do with just a handful of episodes — three this season — as the show's in-demand makers and cast, including Martin Freeman and newcomer (and Freeman's real-life partner) Amanda Abbington, see to other projects. That includes the Doctor Who series for Moffat, The Hobbit franchise for Freeman and a



Benedict Cumberbatch stars in Sherlock. CONTRIBUTED

Quoted

"David Cameron, calling you on that, mate. ... All of China, they're waiting."

Sherlock co-creator Steven Moffat on David Cameron not asking him for more episodes on behalf of Chinese fans

string of films for Cumberbatch.

"No, it's a waste of time, sorry, China," Moffat replied when asked if Sherlock might

be expanded to more episodes. The nine that have aired since 2010 are the equivalent of cranking out nine movies, he and Vertue said.

But why apologize to the Chinese and not devotees elsewhere?

"Well, China were the ones who went to the top and asked," Moffat said.

He and Cumberbatch, who said he appreciated the fervour of fans, agreed they are committed to keeping Sherlock going indefinitely.

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Last Week: 2 / Weeks on List: 3

This Week

Last Week Weeks on List

- | | | |
|---|----|----|
| 3. THE POWER OF HABIT Charles Duhigg | 7 | 3 |
| 4. LIFE AFTER LIFE Kate Atkinson | 3 | 3 |
| 5. THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES Alan Bradley | 18 | 2 |
| 6. THE POUND A DAY DIET Rocco Dispirito | 8 | 3 |
| 7. COLD HARD TRUTH ON FAMILY KIDS & MONEY Kevin O'Leary | 9 | 3 |
| 8. SYCAMORE ROW John Grisham | 6 | 14 |
| 9. THE START HERE DIET Tosca Reno | 15 | 3 |
| 10. STOP OVERTHINKING YOUR MONEY Preet Banerjee | 11 | 3 |
| 11. JOYOUS HEALTH Joy McCarthy | 17 | 2 |
| 12. ALL IN Arlene Dickinson | 12 | 3 |
| ★ 13. DUTY Robert Gates | ~ | 1 |
| 14. THE DEMONOLOGIST Andrew Pyper | 19 | 2 |
| 15. DARK WOLF Christine Feehan | 5 | 3 |
| 16. FIRST LOVE James Patterson | 20 | 2 |
| 17. TEARDROP Lauren Kate | 16 | 3 |
| 18. HAZARDOUS DUTY W.E.B. Griffin | 14 | 3 |
| ★ 19. THE CONFIDENT MOM Joyce Meyer | ~ | 1 |
| ★ 20. MY JOURNEY Olivia Chow | ~ | 1 |

Combined Fiction and Non-Fiction Bestsellers for the week, ending January 27th

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The leading ladies make Jason Reitman the man

Labor Day. Director says he owes his success to the talent of the actresses in his films



For his fifth feature film, director Jason Reitman takes on Joyce Maynard's novel *Labor Day*, about an escaped convict (Josh Brolin) who takes a single mother (Kate Winslet) hostage over a holiday long weekend. To hear Reitman tell it, any success he's had as a director is all down to his leading ladies.

How did you approach adapting the novel into a film?

The narrative follows the book so carefully. I was trying to recreate how the book made me feel. The book is told so beautifully; it's so emotional and I had such an immediate reaction to it that I wanted to create a cinematic experience that mirrored the book. I wanted to tell a story all the way to the end and leave people with a sense of romance. You can't always punch people in the ribs. Not every time.

When did you first read the book?

I read it while it was in galleys, a few years ago. And my producer, Helen



Jason Reitman directs *Labor Day*, which opens next Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Estabrook, found it and gave it to me and said, "You're going to love this," and she was right. My question was, "Is Kate Winslet available?" We got Josh, went to Kate and she said, "I'd love to do it, but I'll do it in a year." So we waited a year for her. That's how *Young Adult* came to be — I made it in that year.

You're developing quite

a track record of working with actresses.

Frankly, I've just been very lucky, you know? To have worked with Maria Bello, Ellen Page, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, Charlize Theron and now Kate Winslet? I mean, it's an unreal group. I'm lucky that they've chosen to work with me. It's wonderful. I mean, it makes me look better than I am. That's

the truth. In their hands, it makes me look like a decent director.

You could try to go out and make a movie ...

With the worst actors possible? I would think given the option of working with brilliant people? Yeah, I'll continue to do that. I find that I know when they're right when it just seems honest and real. When I'm watching an audition, whether it's for a lead or the tiniest part, do they make the words seem honest? It's not if it's funny, it's not if it's dramatic, it's not if it's moving. It's just, does my bulls-detector go off?

Was that how it was with your young star, Gattlin Griffith?

We looked at a lot of young men, and he came in and it was just instantaneous. It's those eyes. The whole movie is his point of view looking at the world — watching this man, watching his mother, trying to figure out what they're doing, trying to figure out his own sexuality. He could do everything without talking, and that's what I needed.

And you cast a remarkably accurate look-alike for young Josh Brolin for the flashbacks.

Tom Lipinski looks exactly like Josh Brolin. My girlfriend at the time said, "When he heard you were casting this movie he must have shot in his pants," (laughs). Use that in your paper.

Devil's Knot. Colin Firth drawn to film by vision of Canadian director Egoyan



Colin Firth stars in *Devil's Knot*, which opens Friday in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

Colin Firth admits he knew nothing about the West Memphis Three when he first encountered *Devil's Knot*, a dramatic take on the mysterious slayings of three Arkansas boys in 1993 and the controversial conviction of three teens in their deaths.

But he says he was immediately fascinated by the "diabolical" misconduct of justice involved, and was tantalized by the unusual vision of Canadian director Atom Egoyan.

The Oscar-winning British actor says this is not a story that easily fits Hollywood's storytelling mould, and that's what made Egoyan especially suited to putting the infamous tale on the big screen.

Questions linger to this day about what really happened, and Firth notes that Egoyan wasn't afraid to leave those loose ends dangling in the movie.

"He finds things that other people might not notice and if this is a case that can't be solved easily then that's what's interesting — let's be honest about that, let's not

Quoted

"He's, I think, a real master of tone and of the mood of an experience."

Colin Firth on filmmaker Atom Egoyan

try and manufacture resolutions which aren't really there, let's see what our relationship is with the insoluble, with frustration," Firth said during a stop at the Toronto International Film Festival back in September.

"He's, I think, a real master of tone and of the mood of an experience. (This is) a story which has so many threads and so many strands, and it's not one single arc and there isn't a single protagonist. To me, he's integrated the film through that pervading mood. It's the way he lights things, and the way he uses music, and the way he creates connections and in ways that aren't conventional."

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Drake has five nominations but is frozen out of big categories

The Grammys. Despite his critically acclaimed, high-selling album the Toronto rapper was not considered for best record, song or album

As strange as it is say that one of the top nominees at the Grammys is also one of its most prominent snubs, a case could be made for Drake.

Sure, the Toronto rapper has five nominations at this Sunday's gala — trailing leader Jay Z as well as Justin Timberlake, Kendrick Lamar, Pharrell Williams and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis — but once again, the 27-year-old star was left out of the show's three marquee categories: record, song and album of the year.

This, despite the fact that his nuanced, forward-thinking Nothing Was the Same was the year's seventh-

bestselling album in the U.S. after moving 1.34 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The album was hailed by critics too, receiving high placement on lists of the best albums of the year by Billboard, Rolling Stone and Entertainment Weekly. His singles were just as broadly acclaimed — either the hypnotic origin tale Started From the Bottom or power-puff stunner Hold On, We're Going Home placed on the year-end Top 10 lists by Billboard, Rolling Stone, Time Magazine and Pitchfork.

He's thus now been nominated for his own music 15 times but only once outside of the rap categories, when he ceded best new artist to Esperanza Spalding in 2011. (He has one win, for best rap album at last year's bash). If his spotty record at the awards soiree bothers the perennially melancholic songwriter, he didn't let on during a recent interview in Toronto.

"To be recognized in any capacity for the music that we make is great, (but) I don't think the Grammys make or break any artist," he said. "I don't think anybody should live or die by the Grammys — that's my opinion. I think it's a great organization and obviously (has a) deep-rooted history in music, but at the same time, if I go home with no Grammys I still feel great about what we did."

"I think anybody should feel that way."

Well, perhaps it helps that the slate of nominations for the 56th Grammy Awards was in many ways the most surprising in recent years — and it's left pundits unsure of what to expect. This was, apparently, to be a Grammys show dominated by Justin Timberlake, whose sleekly high-end (if exhaustingly overlong) The 20/20 Experience reigned as the year's highest-selling album and was preceded by a ubiquitous marketing campaign that included a coronation at

last year's Grammy show.

But despite his seven nominations, Timberlake was, like Drake, completely left out of the Grammys' trio of major categories. For album of the year, Lamar's masterful street-level opus will compete with Daft Punk's visionary Random Access Memories, Sara Bareilles's The Blessed Unrest, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis's poppy The Heist and Taylor Swift's Red.

It's hard to pin down a favourite.

The other marquee categories are seen as just as difficult to call. Robin Thicke — who has Canadian citizenship by virtue of his father, actor Alan — landed a record of the year nomination for his sleazy smash Blurred Lines. It's a category that also features Daft Punk's undeniable Get Lucky, Imagine Dragons' Radioactive, Lorde's Royals and Bruno Mars' Locked Out of Heaven.

The Lorde and Mars tunes



Toronto rapper Drake doesn't measure his success by how many Grammys he has. CANADIAN PRESS

are also up for song of the year — the distinction between the two confusingly named categories is that the "record" award is based on performance while "song"

is given for songwriting — along with Pink's Just Give Me a Reason, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis's Same Love and Katy Perry's Roar.

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Quentin Tarantino ALL IM AGES GETTY

Tarantino will probably get stern with Dern after leak

Quentin Tarantino is calling off plans to make a western, *The Hateful Eight*, as his next film after the first draft of the script was leaked around Hollywood, he tells *Deadline*. "I'm very, very depressed. I finished a script, a first draft, and I didn't mean to shoot it until next winter, a year from now," he explains. "I gave it to six people, and apparently it's gotten out." Among the half dozen who received the script were actors Michael

Madsen, Tim Roth and current Oscar nominee Bruce Dern, and Tarantino is apparently pretty sure it was Dern's representatives who are responsible for the leak. Tarantino says the leak became apparent when his own agent's office was inundated with calls from reps trying to book their clients in smaller roles in the script. Tarantino now plans to publish the screenplay instead and move on to another project.

Harry hits the sauce after achieving South Pole goal

Prince Harry celebrated reaching the South Pole in true style, going on a "two-day bender" and drinking champagne out of a prosthetic limb, actor and trek-mate Dominic West tells the *Telegraph*. "Two of the Aussie guys stripped naked and ran around the pole, but most of us, Harry included, just went on a two-day bender with the Icelandic truck drivers who had brought some lethal home brew with them,"



Prince Harry

West says, adding that Harry "told some eye-wateringly rude jokes."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lawrence wasn't first choice for *Silver Linings Playbook*

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

In *Silver Linings Playbook*, Jennifer Lawrence played a woman who'd gotten married, been widowed, gone crazy with grief and slept her way out of at least one job. Believe it or not, the first choice to play that role was not a 21-year-old.

Harvey Weinstein recently revealed that a different pixie-cut thespian was originally slated for the role: Anne Hathaway was his original choice to play Tiffany. "Silver Linings Playbook was originally going to be with Anne Hathaway and Mark Wahlberg," the studio exec told Howard Stern. "And then Anne wasn't doing it. And she's marvellous and wonderful and she was my choice, I love her."

So why wasn't Anne up there yelling and twitching and dancing poorly? Apparently she and director



David O. Russell didn't hit it off. "David and Anne had some creative differences," Weinstein said. "They didn't see eye-to-eye." That's no shocker — David O. Russell is famously difficult to work with. He's gotten into shoving matches with both George Clooney and Lily Tomlin. Hathaway doesn't seem like she'd be very accepting of shoving. And since both she and Lawrence won Oscars that year, she's probably cool with how things worked out. Of course, Jennifer won Best Actress, while Anne nabbed a mere Best Supporting Actress statuette for *Les Misérables*. Yeah, she might be grinding her teeth at night about this one.



Katy Perry

Praise the Lord! Perry's body is the real deal

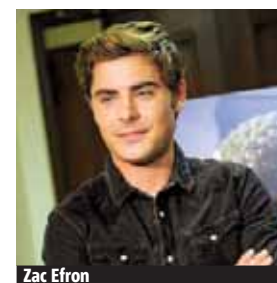
Katy Perry admits she had some help in developing her impressive figure, but it wasn't from a surgeon. The voluptuous singer tells *GQ* that when she was 11 years old, "I lay on my back one night and looked down at my feet and I prayed to God. I said, 'God, will you please let me have boobs so big that I can't see my feet when I'm lying down?'" Perry says.

"God answered my prayers. I had no clue they would fall into my armpits eventually." She also insists her lack of artificial augmentation lends her more credibility. "I've never had any plastic surgery. Not a nose, not a chin, not a cheek, not a tit," she says. "So my messages of self-empowerment are truly coming from an au natural product."

Efron 'couldn't be happier' with life after rehab stint

After Zac Efron's rehab stint last spring for a reported drug problem, he's excited to be moving on and growing from the experience. "I'm so happy. I feel like I'm in a great place and I'm glad that I'm really here to share this moment with everybody and be present for all of it," Efron said at a press conference on Tuesday for his new film, *That Awkward Moment*, in New York City. The 26-year-old actor said of his "interesting year" that he "learned so many things."

"The best part of it was being



Zac Efron

able to reflect upon that experience and realize how much I have learned about myself and the kind of man I want to be." While promoting the film, about three young guys navigating the dating world in New York City, Efron added that he "couldn't be happier."

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I'd like to thank Her for upholding hipster style...

What the tuck.

Sequins, slips and suits made this year's silver screen sparkle. But Her, with all its hipster hues and high-waistedness, will make likely make the most lasting mark on fashion

Oscar-nominated Her didn't earn a nod for best costume design, but fashion observers say the retro-futuristic looks featured in the film take the trophy for trendsetting style.

American clothing label Opening Ceremony created a collection inspired by styles designed by Casey Storm for the inventive drama, which is set in near-future Los Angeles. Her chronicles the relationship between Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix) and his operating system (voiced by Scarlett Johansson), with the film's love-lorn protagonist regularly seen sporting buttoned-up collared shirts paired with ultra high-waisted pants.

"I think you tend to think of everyone putting their life out on display in the world that we live in now, and the fashions were really the opposite to that," said Noreen Flanagan, editor-in-chief of Elle Canada.

"It was very much about kind of concealing yourself which I thought, again, was a kind of interesting twist to what we're increasingly becoming more familiar with in terms of how we relate to one another in the digital world."



Joaquin's character in Her might be lacking in some social skills, but perhaps he can find fulfilment in his ability to choose interesting ensembles. CONTRIBUTED

What a waist

"It's not going to be for everyone and, my God, you really have to have flat abs to wear pants like that. That is not a flattering silhouette on most people."

Noreen Flanagan
Editor-in-chief of Elle Canada

Probably of all the films, Flanagan said Her has the greatest likelihood of "getting a little bit of street cred."

"It's not going to be for everyone and, my God, you really have to have flat abs to wear pants like that. That is not a flattering silhouette on most people. It requires a certain young, youthful, in-shape physique to wear it. I can see for a certain hipster set it becoming quite cool."

Toronto-based costume and set designer Sarah Armstrong also sees the potential for Her to emerge as a trendsetter.

"(Theodore's) kind of got a look, a unique esthetic, that's not unlike what we see today. It's very, very comfortable. And I think, too, because he's a younger character, that may also lend itself to a trend that might come up."

While Armstrong said she didn't think there was anything "blindingly new" about the designs for Her, she viewed them as an interpretation of the hipster trend being embraced by the 20-something generation.

"They're pulling from steampunk, they're pulling from Victorian elements, from the '60s, they're pulling from a

whole bunch of different eras and blending them all together."

On the opposite end of the style spectrum was costume design nominee American Hustle with its depiction of flashy '70s fashions. The film is awash in plunging necklines, brightly lacquered nails and bouffant



Jennifer Lawrence's outfits in American Hustle are unforgettable, but did they distract from her performance? CONTRIBUTED

And the nominees are...

A handful of period pieces will be contending for the Oscar costume crown on March 2.

- The nominees are Catherine Martin (The Great Gatsby); Patricia Norris (12 Years a Slave); William Chang Suk Ping (The Grandmaster); Michael O'Connor (The Invisible Woman); and Michael Wilkinson (American Hustle).

do's as well as bell-bottoms and mile-wide ties with lapels to match.

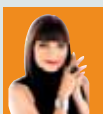
"We've had films in the past that have gone back to the '70s, but they really play down the hair, they really play down the wardrobe, the clothing," said Armstrong. "With American Hustle, it really is all about the excess of the '70s, and the characters are extreme."

Flanagan said while she found the clothes in Hustle to be "fun, fabulous and entertaining," she said she almost found them to be "too much."

"In terms of digging up those V-neck Halstons and Diane von Furstenberg dresses and vintage Dior aviators and Gucci accessories, full marks for going on a fashion treasure hunt and finding real gems from that period. But it needed some editing," she said. "It needed the director to say: 'Wait a minute. We don't want the fashions to overshadow the story and the characters.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Twitter



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TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.



Hockey legend @NHLShanahan, the beautiful @AndieMacDowell3 and hunky @Alan_Thicke @echoesofhope game @ SundanceFest



Hitting the slopes of Park City #Utah because woman cannot live by film alone!! #sundance #heaven

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Ailyn

Age: 19

Occupation: Film student

What she's wearing: Blundstone boots, thrift store

denim jeans, winter cape from the ROM's boutique, lace shirt from Club Monaco and maroon Fjallraven Kanken backpack.

Her inspiration: "Normally I go vintage, stuff you'd find in your grandma's closet. I'm a kid stuck in the '90s. This outfit



however is my winter hipster look."

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3 THE

Make a big impact with big art

This year's trend is to go with bigger, bolder artwork — whether it's one large piece or several smaller ones grouped together to create a unified effect. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of your space, even if you're on a budget or live in a small condo with little wall space.



DESIGN CENTRE
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For big effect, group smaller pieces together. Various prints, crateandbarrel.com

The trend

With the trend of floor-to-ceiling windows, large intake vents and multiple light switches taking up valuable wall space in newer condos, it's hard to find little — if any — wall space to hang artwork. Often your only choice is an obscure wall, off to the side. The trend for 2014 is bigger and bolder artwork, creating big impact in a space with one large piece rather than a row of small gallery style hangings. To achieve impact with many small pieces, try arranging them into a rectangular grouping, which creates the effect of one big shape rather than many small ones.

Rules for hanging

When hung on an empty wall, the middle of the piece of artwork should hang 66 inches from the floor. If hanging art over a piece of furniture, the bottom of your artwork should be hung six to nine inches above it. A decorative picture light will help to illuminate your artwork and make it a focal point. If hung on the wall, art should be framed; if not, display it on a decorative easel or lean on a floating shelf. The colour of the frame should match either the wood tones or metal finishes used in the room; this will coordinate the art into the room with ease.



The middle of your artwork should hang 66 inches from the floor. Cloud Study print, \$970, crateandbarrel.com



A favourite image can be printed on canvas and stretched on a frame to create a custom piece of art. From \$25, posterjack.ca

Art on a budget

Everyone thinks art (especially larger pieces) needs to be expensive. Art needs to be thoughtful, not pricey. For affordable art, look to art school sales, vintage poster prints and big home retailers that now sell limited-run pieces (with the fast turnover of products, a favourite piece may only be around for a few months). You can also get creative and customize your own art; a favourite image can be emailed to a custom print company and reproduced on wood, stainless steel or canvas at any size. Also, painting the wall a contrasting colour is a great way to make your art piece pop; go dark or bright for impact.

Simple kitchen renovations on the cheap

Home renos. Painting cupboards, updating light fixtures or reupholstering chairs can make a big impact

Saying goodbye to an '80s kitchen can be as easy as applying a coat of paint, modernizing lighting and installing stone countertops.

Though kitchen renovations can often require a serious financial investment, painting

kitchen cabinets is a relatively inexpensive way to give the space a new look, says Lana Lounsbury, an interior designer in Victoria.

But she warns that homeowners should be aware of the kind of wood their cabinets are made of before they paint them, and what kind of paint they use.

"You cannot paint oak — the grain is too deep — and when you put lacquer over it they look fake and gross because you can still see the grain," she says.

"Homeowners should also contemplate having them professionally sprayed in a booth to avoid having the marks of brushes and rollers seen in the end product."

Lounsbury says homeowners shouldn't cut costs on paint and are advised to use a high-quality, semi-gloss sheen after applying a primer.

While quartz, stone and marble countertops can be a major investment in a kitchen, you can make an impact by installing a new countertop on a smaller space like an island.

Marina Hildebrand, an interior designer in Regina, says updating lighting fixtures can change the look of a kitchen.

According to Hildebrand, homeowners are replacing the '90s trend of three small pendant fixtures with two, more dramatic lights.

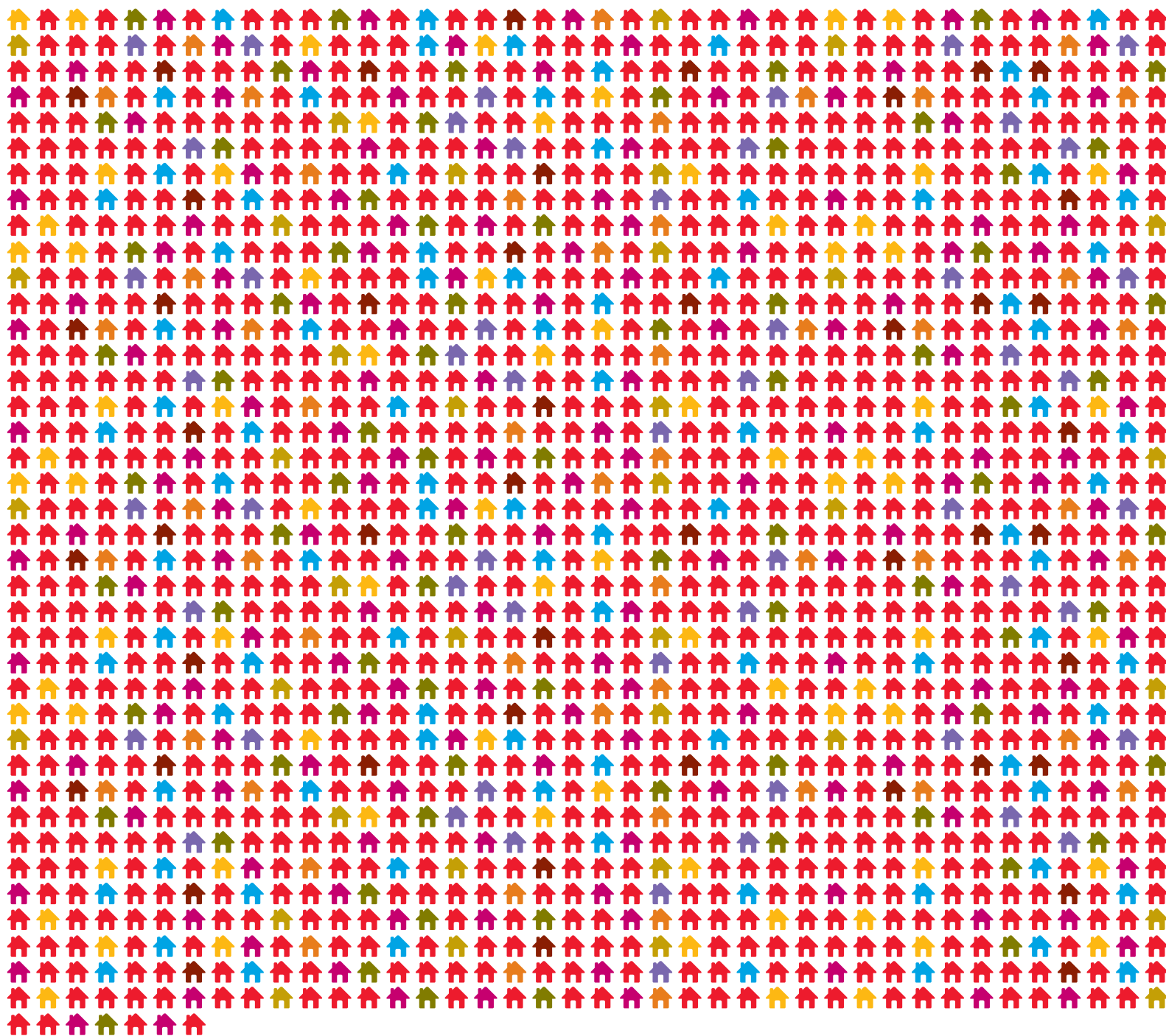
"Lighting is dramatic and pretty inexpensive considering the options out there right now," she says.

Lounsbury points out that a mix of ambient and task lighting is important in a kitchen.


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Outdated kitchens can be revitalized by introducing a bold backsplash or painting the cabinets. ISTOCK



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